STATEMENT–II

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH AND MAHARASHTRA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SC/ST BOYS AND GIRLS HOSTELS

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
MADHYA PRADESH			
BOYS HOSTELS FOR SCs	NIL	NIL	216.30
GIRLS HOSTELS FOR SCs	39.96	NIL	NIL
BOYS HOSTELS FOR STs	39.28	16.90	NIL
GIRLS HOSTELS FOR STs	27.03	118.82	NIL
MAHARASHTRA			
BOYS HOSTELS FOR SCs	6.824	NIL	93.97
GIRLS HOSTELS FOR SCs	56.43	NIL	NIL
BOYS HOSTELS FOR STs	NIL	NIL	NIL
GIRLS HOSTELS FOR STs	NIL	NIL	NIL

Miserable Conditions of Santhal Tribals

5440. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the miserable conditions of Santhal tribals in Assam as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated August 12, 1996 under the caption 'Forsaken by all, Santhalis die a slow death';

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Additional Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) were airlifted to Assam to assist the State Government in dealing with the situation. Army columns were deployed in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts. Army was also alerted in other parts of the State. The situation was regularly monitored by the Home Ministry and the State Government was advised to take all possible measures to control the situation. A team of senior officers, representing the Ministry of Home and Ministry of Defence was deputed to the State to discuss the situation with the Chief Minister and the senior State Government officials and Army Officers. The State Government is taking steps to provide gratuitous relief and rehabilitation grant. The request received from the State Government of Assam for sanction of Rs. 25 crores as Central Assistance for the rehabilitation of the affected people in the ethnic violence is under consideration.

Journalists and Newspaper Employees

5441. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Bill to amend the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service and Misc. Provisions) has been pending since long;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to expeditiously get it passed; and

(c) the time by which it will be passed ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996 was passed by Rajya Sabha on 1.8.96 and is awaiting consideration and approval by the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Electronic Exchanges in Delhi

5442. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic and manual telephone exchanges including their capacity in the NCT of Delhi, separately;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges converted into electronic exchanges and the number of new Electronic Exchanges set up during each of the last three years in the NCT of Delhi;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges and the number of new Electronic Exchanges likely to be set up during 1996-97; and

(d) the amount spent on the conversion of telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges and new Electronic Exchanges during the above period and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon during 1996-97 ?